(f) The following safety measures have been adopted to check such accidents:—

(1) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and important main lines.

(2) Signalling circuitry is being changed to prevent home signal being lowered till the starter and the advance starter lowered for an earlier train have been put back to 'On' position.

(3) Auxiliary warning system for giving advance warning about signals at danger to driver of the running train and stopping the train if the driver does not respond within the pre-determined time interval has already been commissioned on Bombay suburban sections.

(4) Upgradation of track structure has been done by using heavier rails and concrete sleepers.

(5) The track is maintained by Tie tamping and ballast cleaning machines. Track is also now being laid with track renewal trains and portal cranes.

(6) For monitoring of the track, geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.

(7) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised.

(8) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axle all ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for timely detection of cases of flaws developing in the axles.

(9) Training facilities for drivers, guard and other staff connected with train operation have been modernised. Drivers are being trained on simulators.

(10) Performance of the staff is constantly monitored. The staff whose knowledge of rules is found deficient are counselled and are sent for refresher training.

Popularity of Distance Education System

670. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Distance Education System is getting very popular;

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide this facility in every State;

(c) what is the present position with regard to the facility of Distance Education in the coutnry; and

(d) the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SATE IN THE DEPTT. OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) The benefits of Distance Education Programmes are available across the country through the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) at the University level and the National Open School at the Secondary and Senior Secondary levels. These institutions, established by the Central Government cater to the demands of students unable to continue their education in colleges or schools due to poverty or other socio-economic compulsions.

IGNOU offers its academic programmes through its 17 Regional and 255 Study Centres with around 3,00,000 students on its rolls. This University also coordinates and promotes Distance Education Sector at the University level through its Distance Education Council.

Besides, State Open Universities and a number of Correspondence Course Institutes attached to "Conventional Universities" also offer instructions at the University level. The details of these institutions are given in the enclosed statement (*see* below).

The National Open School, established in 1989, similarly provides instructions at the School level in over 550 Study Centres around the country to more than 3,00,000 students. Its efforts are supplemented by 4 State Open Schools in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

Statement

Details of the institutions providing distant education in the country

Open Universities

The following Open Universities have been established in the country so far:

1. New Delhi — Indira Gandhi National Open University
2. Andhra Pradesh — Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University
3. Rajasthan — Kota Open University, Kota
4. Bihar — Nalanda Open University, Patna
5. Maharashtra — Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nasik
6. Gujarat — Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad.
7. Madhya Pradesh — M.P. Bhoj Open University, Bhopal

Correspondence Course Institutes

The following Conventional Unversities in the country offer correspondence education programme:

Andhra Pradesh

1. Institute of Correspondence Course, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati.
2. School of Correspondence Courses, Andhra University, Vishakhapatnam.
3. Department of Correspondnece Courses, Central Institute of Foreign Languages, Hyderabad.
4. Institute of Correspondence Courses, Kakatia University, Warrangal.
5. School of Continuing and Distance Education; Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad.
6. Institute of Correspondence Courses, Osmania University, Hyderabad.
7. School of Correspondence Courses, Nagarjuna University.

Meghalaya

1. North Eastern Hill University, Shillong

Bihar

1. Institute of Correspondence Courses, Patna University, Patna.

Delhi

1. School of Correspondence Courses and Continuing Education, University of Delhi.
2. Department of Urdu, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

Gujarat

1. Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad.

Haryana

1. Directorate of Correspondence Courses, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.
2. Directorate of Correspondence Courses, M.D. University, Rohtak.

Himachal Pradesh

1. Directorae of Correspondence Courses, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla.

Jammu and Kashmir

1. Distance Education Department, Kashmir University, Srinagar.
2. Institute of Correspondence Education, University of Jammu, Jammu.

Karnataka

1. Institute of Correspondence Courses and Continuing Education, University of Mysore.
2. Directorate of Correspondence Courses, Bangalore University, Bangalore.

Kerala

1. Institute of Correspondence Courses and Continuing Education, University of Calicut, Calicut.
2. Institute of Correspondence Courses, University of Kerala, Trivandrum.
3. School of Distance Education, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam.

Madhya Pradesh

1. Institute of Correspondence Courses, Barkatullah University, Bhopal

2. Directorate of Extension Services, jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur.
3. School of Correspondence Courses and Distance Education, Awadhesh Pratap Singh University, Rewa.
4. Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur.

Maharashtra

1. Directorate of Distance Education, University of Bombay, Mumbai.
2. Department of Adult and Continuing Education & Extention Work, Shivaji University, Kohlapur.
3. Department of Correspondence Courses and Distance Education, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai.
4. Distance Education Centre, University of Poona; Pune.

Orissa

1. Directorate of Correspondence Courses, Utkal University, Bhubaneshwar.

Punjab

1. Directorate of Correspondence Courses, Punjab University, Patiala.
2. Department of Extension Education, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.
3. Directorate of Correspondence Courses, Punjab University, Chandigarh.

Rajasthan

1. Distance Learning, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani.

Tamil Nadu

1. Institute of Correspondence Courses and Continuing Education, Madurai Kamraj University, Madurai.
2. Directorate of Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.
3. Directorate of Distance Education, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar.
4. Institute of Correspondence Education, University of Madras, Madras.
5. Mother Teresa Women's University, Madras.
6. Alagappa University, Alagga Nagar, Karaikudi.
7. Directorate of Distance and Continuing Education, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli.

Uttar Pradesh

1. Institute of Correspondence Courses and Continuing Education, Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut.
2. Institute of Correspondence Courses and Continuing Education, Allahabad University, Allahabad.
3. Directorate of Education, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pant Nagar.
4. Department of Distance Education, Gurukul Kangari Vishwa Vidyalaya, Haridwar.
5. Directorate of Correspondence Courses, Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanas:.

West Bengal

1. Directorate of Correspondence Courses, Burdwan University, Burdwarn.
2. Adult, Continuing Education and Extension Centre, Jadavpur University, Jadavpur.

Slashing Down of AMS

671. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether slashing down of nonproduct specific Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) without correcting product specific AMS would not add to highly negative figure of AMS on 17 crops of GAT negotiations;

(b) whether non-product AMS for power would be kept at the stated level; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The concept of Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) used in the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture is a negotiated concept designed to measure the trade distorting